

SUMMARY OF NO. 15-12

This proposed law would reverse a 2010 vote by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education relative to the 2010 Common Core state educational standards. The proposed law would restore the English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum frameworks in place prior to the vote.

The proposed law would require that the Board's process for developing curriculum frameworks include committees made up of public school teachers and academics from public and private colleges and universities in Massachusetts. It would also require the state Commissioner of Education to copyright the curriculum frameworks and to grant permission to copy any or all parts of the frameworks for non-commercial educational purposes.

The proposed law would establish three review committees, one for each discipline of math, science and technology, and English. Each committee would be made up of three members from Massachusetts research universities appointed by the Governor. The Board would be prohibited from approving any curriculum frameworks unless the review committees first decide by a two-thirds vote that the frameworks are equivalent to the standards of the most educationally advanced nations as determined by the Trends in Mathematics and Sciences Study.

The proposed law would require that, each year, the Commissioner publicly release all test items, including

questions, constructed responses, and essays, for each grade and for every subject.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.